



## Mayor Adrian M. Fenty's 2008 Summer Employment Program

# The Summer Scoop

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2008

### What Youth Are Saying . . .

*"If the program didn't exist, then a lot of people in my community would be doing nothing."*

- Taylor Hodge

*"It gives me something to do instead of getting in trouble."*

-Clarence Mobley

*"This program helps teens to engage in the community in a beneficial way."*

- Tiffany Proctor

*"This program actively engages the youth, bring out talent, pride and a sense of accomplishment."*

- Kevin Cook

## Did You Make Your Summer Pay?

More than 21, 000 District youth, ages 14 to 21, decided to earn money instead of sitting around idly in the community.

Mayor Adrian M. Fenty's 2008 Passport-to-work Summer Youth Program provided thousands of young people with work opportunities and academic enrichment trainings during the 10-week paid program.



*2008 Summer Youth Employment Program Kick-off.*

The Department of Employment Services (DOES) Office of Youth Programs played an active role in placing young people in various career and occupational positions. More than 500 local private and public sector employers, including community organizations, were instrumental in helping to cultivate the personal and profession-

al aspirations of the District's future workforce. The Summer Youth Employment Program provides an array of summer enrichment experiences that consists of Arts, Design and Media, Building and Grounds Maintenance, Community and Social Services, Construction Trades, Education, Training and Library Science, Health Care Support, Hospitality and Tourism, Office and Administration Support and Sports and Physical Education.

The Summer Youth Employment Program allows thousands of District youth an opportunity to gain practical training and work experience while being paid the federal minimum wage.

## "Just Take One" Campaign Takes Off!

The DOES Office of Youth Programs 2008 "Just Take One Campaign" has founded on the simple belief that if each of the 31,000 private sector companies in the District hired one youth for the summer, this "power of one" demonstration would make a difference in the community and in the lives of thousands of young people.

Through the "Just Take One " initiative, several companies partnered with the Office of Youth Programs and provided work experience opportunities to college students, through the Private Sector Initiative Program (PSIP).

The "Just Take One" Initiative is an excellent strategic partnership for summer and year-round employment.

Just Take



District of Columbia  
Department of  
**EMPLOYMENT  
SERVICES**



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# The 2008 Summer Program's Kick-Off



**Mayor Fenty's Summer Youth Interns** joined Serve DC, Department of Parks and Recreation, and Department of Public Works in a spruce up of the Columbia Heights Neighborhood.

Participants were anxious to beautify the city and improve the conditions of our DC neighborhoods with Mayor Fenty.



*Mayor Adrian M. Fenty shakes the hand of a summer youth participant during the orientation kick off held at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center.*

Mayor Fenty kicked off the 2008 Passport-to-work Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), while greeting participants at the kick-off orientation. This year, more than 21, 000 youth registered to get a summer job.

The one-week orientation attracted more than 3,000 youth, ages 14-15, on the first day. Youth participated in morning and afternoon workshops, which focused on work readiness skills, financial management, as well as other enhancements to the program. The orientation helped to ensure that the youth workers experienced a smooth and successful transition into their summer jobs.

## It Pays To Go Green!



Mayor Adrian Fenty met with more than 400 members of the Mayor's Green Summer Job Corps Initiative, which is a part of the 2008 Summer Youth Employment Program.

The youth spent the summer working to make the Anacostia River and District parks beautiful. Not only did the youth participants learn about the environment and reaching out to the community, but they earned money.

This is the first program of its kind administered by the DC Department of the Environment.

## Private Sectors Step Up

The Private Sector Initiative Program provides full- and part-time work experience and on-the-job training to youth preparing for entry-level professional work.

This initiative partners with many private and for-profit local businesses to sponsor and, subsequently, hire youth. The staff screen youth prior to matching them with employers. Youth participating in the program generally have basic skills and are ready to work.

this team collaborates to provide opportunities for college students to engage in internships and jobs based on their major field of study or career interests.

This summer, two employers awarded two youth workers a \$500 scholarship for outstanding participation in the summer youth program.

This year-round program for District youth, ages 16-24, is geared to young people who are out-of-school and/or attend college. During the summer and throughout the year,





# MYLI

*Mayor's Youth Leadership Institute*

## Youth Leaders Challenged To Speak Up!



This year's MYLI public speaking competition allowed the Youth Leaders a chance to voice their opinion on various topics and utilize the personal development and public speaking skills they gained during training. Participants from all four levels signed up for the competition and were given one week to write a three-minute speech on a topic of their choice. After delivering their speeches, the top two participants from each level went on to the final competition where they gave a 3 to 5 minute speech on "What is the influence – positive or negative – that hip hop has had on the black community?"

For the second consecutive year, MYLI was privileged to have Countess Cooper and Ray Crawford from Toastmasters International conduct a workshop with the competition participants and the youth government candidates. WPGC's Radio personality DJ Aladdin was the event's Master of Ceremonies.

## A Monumental Food Drive



The MYLI Canned Food Drive was the Institute's final community service project for summer 2008. The youth leaders collected canned food and donated them to the Capitol Area Food Bank to help feed residents in need.

Last year, MYLI donated the highest total they received in one day from any organization.

## Ballin!! Reinforces Team Building Skills



This year, the MYLI held its 2nd Annual Airrion Johnson Summer Basketball Tournament at Howard University. Each of the four levels had a team in the single elimination tournament.

The first day of the tournament featured the Alphas vs. the Deltas and the Betas vs. the Omegas. On the second day of the tournament, the Deltas played the Omegas in the championship game. In the end, the Delta Level participants won the tournament.

The tournament allowed the MYLI to reinforce team building skills, sportsmanship, athletics, and taking instructions. It was also a fun activity that brought about unity within each level.



# The Youth at Turner Construction



"My boys." That is the term Mike Holley, Project Manager at Turner Construction, uses to affectionately refer to his team of 2008 summer youth workers. "When they get their paycheck for 40 hours a week, believe me, they've earned it," he says, matter-of-factly.

And the boys concur.

For Andre Thomas, 20, an incoming junior studying mechanical engineering at Temple University, working as a painter for Turner Construction has been one of the most pleasantly surprising work experiences he's had. "I'm learning so much not only about the construction trade," Thomas said of his responsibilities that include painting, sanding, and monitoring people on the lifts, "but also about me. This job demands that I take initiative and that I learn not only by doing, but also by listening and observing. These are work ethic that I can take with me to advance in any career."

Twenty-one year old Pierre Cook's summer work experience at Turner Construction could not have come at a better time in his life. According to the Friendship Edison Collegiate Academy graduate, he signed up with the 2008 Summer Youth program because he could not find a job. "I saw the program as an opportunity to work and earn some extra cash," he said, adding that he is happy he did as he is developing a trade on which he can fall back, if necessary, or, pursue entrepreneurial endeavors.

"And that's precisely the point," chimed in Mr. Holley. "Many of them come in with little attitudes, you know, like they don't want to work or to be here; but that's a part of the

learning process." Moreover, the summer youth workers are required to adapt to a multicultural and bilingual work environment. Many of their co-workers are Hispanics, and much to summer youth workers' surprise, they are learning a lot from their bilingual co-workers. "We have to pay close attention, of course, when they are teaching or explaining something to us," Cook states. "But it's a good experience all around."

"As their supervisor," Mr. Holley explains, "I visit them regularly, and unexpectedly, at their worksites. I talk and listen to them as well as their on-site supervisors. I watch them work and correct them when necessary and, most importantly, I let them know how proud I am of them." Holley says this type of attention and recognition goes a long way with effectively communicating with his youth workers and ensuring a successful program. According to Mr. Holley, the youth workers and supervisors meet regularly for "fellowship." This is where they meet to discuss problems and air their differences. According to Holley, this type of open communication lends itself to effective program management, everyone's voice is heard and final resolutions are made together.

Touted as one of the more successful summer program this year, the Turner Construction Summer Youth Program started out with 15 youth workers in July. Only two left, leaving 13 youth workers who attended work on time and worked a full 40 hours a week. They each earned \$14.06 cents an hour, painting facilities, such as public schools in DC; but, according to the youth workers, the experience far outweighed the earnings.

"This sort of work requires discipline," Mr. Holley explains. "However, the number one thing I look for from them is dependability - showing up for the job and taking care of business. So far....so good."



Government of the District of Columbia  
Adrian M. Fenty, Mayor

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